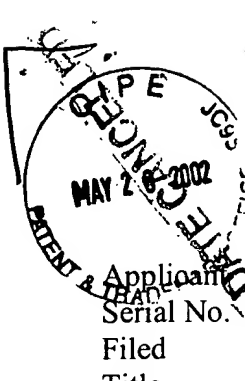


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Manoocher Birang, et al.

Art Unit : Unknown

Serial No.: 09/863,118

Examiner : Unknown

Filed : May 22, 2001

Title : METHOD OF FORMING A TRANSPARENT WINDOW IN A POLISHING
PAD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Add claims 37-53.

21/ 37. A polishing pad for a chemical mechanical polishing apparatus, comprising:
an article having a polishing surface;
an aperture formed in the article; and
a substantially transparent plug secured in the aperture, wherein the plug includes a first
section with a first lateral dimension and a second section with a second, different lateral
dimension.

38. The polishing pad of claim 27, wherein the first section of the plug is closer to the
polishing surface.

39. The polishing pad of claim 33, wherein the first lateral dimension is smaller than
the second lateral dimension.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being
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